BENGALURU, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 25 | Min 17 | Humidity 90% Generally cloudy sky with Light rain Sensex 85,720 | Nifty 26,215 | Gold 1,27,750 | Silver 1,73,000 | Dollar 89.31 | Euro 103.84 | GBP 118.41

Tomato catch up

CITY PAGE 2

Century-mark just days away, warn traders as tomato prices touch Rs 70-80 per kg across city

Rights wronged

CITY PAGE 7

New codes dismantle hard-won labour rights, say workers who accuse Centre of framing policies to benefit corporates

As long wait times and high chance of failure frustrates B1/B2 US visa applicants in city, travel agents say problem arises as there is a huge volume of applications, but only a few appointment slots

GET IN QUEUE, PLEASE

Preparation can make all the difference, say some candidates

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Securing a B1/B2 US visa appointment has become a long and exhausting process for many applicants in Bengaluru, with wait times stretching beyond a year and stories of discouragement becoming increasingly common. And applicants fear that recent US policy changes under Donald Trump's administration may further slow down processing.

Omran Khan, a lawyer from Bengaluru, described his challenging year-long journey to secure a visa interview. Unable to rely on online tour operators due to concerns about authenticity, he decided to apply on his own by following online tutorials and filling out the mandatory DS-160 form. "The DS-160 is valid only for one year. After uploading it, I paid the $180 visa fee and selected the Chennai consulate. But the earliest available dates were more than a year away," he told BM.

FILE PHOTO (FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY)

Khan eventually rescheduled for Hyderabad, which offered a slightly earlier date. But the long wait created a new problem the DS-160 form he had submitted a year earlier expired just before his interview. "I realised only a day before that I had to resubmit the entire form and map it back to my appointment. The whole process was extremely tedious," he said.

Despite completing every requirement, his interview lasted barely 30 seconds. "They gave me a blue slip and said they were not satisfied with my travel itinerary. They told me I needed a local sponsor letter. The consulate

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 »

> **"The embassy has a limited number of appointment slots, which open only at intervals. If you apply in the normal process today, your appointment could be in November 2026**
>
> —Pooja Naidu, travel firm operator

Are you going to drink that?

Quality analysis shows by 2030 groundwater in some parts of rural Bengaluru many not be fit for drinking

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Given the current state of affairs, groundwater in some parts of rural Bengaluru might not be suitable for drinking by 2030.

A water quality analysis of six locations in Bengaluru rural and Ramanagara districts shows that over the next five years, groundwater at 50% of these locations will be 'unfit for drinking', based on BIS classification.

Researchers examined the groundwater quality over the last 10 years at Doddaballapura, Mahadevapura, Shivagange 1, Gangenapura, Aralalu, and Bairasandra. The projections show that the groundwater at Shivagange, Bairasandra, and Aralalu will become unfit for consumption.

In 2024, the water quality index (WQI) of groundwater in Doddaballapura was calculated to be 53.12, in Mahadevapura, it was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Feelin' jazzy

Alessio Menconi, one of world's most celebrated jazz guitarists, will perform live with his Organ Trio. The trio features Alberto Gurrisi on Hammond organ and Alessandro Minetto on drums, delivering performances that combine virtuosity, improvisation, and rhythm with effortless grace. **Where: Windmills, Whitefield; When: November 28 and 29, 9.30 pm**

02 Get crafty

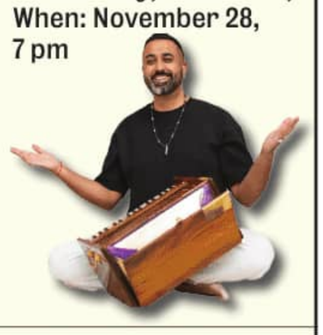
'The Festival of Handmade' is bringing together over 200 groups from across the country in a vibrant and exciting market that showcases exquisite handicrafts. **Where: Jayamahal Palace Hotel; When: November 26 to 30**

03 Musical icons

After the huge success of the first edition, Sitar Rama Rao Utsav is back with a 2nd edition. The festival celebrates the life and music of one of Karnataka's own sons, Pandit NR Rama Rao. The show will feature performances by renowned stalwarts of the music world. **Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Malleshwaram; When: Nov 28, 6 pm**

04 Soulful music

Phoenix Marketcity is organising a soul-stirring musical performance by Radhika Das, the renowned London-based Kirtan artist, Bhakti Yoga teacher, and podcast host. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: November 28, 7 pm**



05 Star-studded evening

Phoenix Mall of Asia is presenting a blockbuster evening featuring DJ Nikhil Chinappa along with Roadies icons Rannvijay Singh, Prince Narula, Rajiv Lakshman, Priyank Sharma and Arun Sharma, creating a high-energy, celebrity-powered atmosphere. **Where: Dobaraa – Gastropub, 3rd floor, Phoenix Mall of Asia;When: November 29, 8 pm**

Tomato prices race towards ₹100 again

Traders say heavy rains causing severe damage to crops across Karnataka has resulted in sharp dips in arrivals, causing prices to soar; vendors predict upward streak to continue

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Consumers face strain as cost of tomatoes continues to be driven sky-high due to low supply

The city's most-depended kitchen staple is once again on a fiery upswing. After selling at just Rs 10 per kilo last month, tomatoes have shot up to Rs 70–80 per kilo across Bengaluru markets and vendors warn that the century mark is only days away.

For Bengalureans, the déjà vu is unmistakable. The last time tomatoes stormed past Rs 100, the city saw tomato thefts, wild alternatives in restaurant kitchens, and a flood of memes capturing everyone's frustration. Households rationed their tomato intake, and even police stations reported odd tomato-related complaints. The familiar tension is returning now.

From roads to riches

Just two months ago, farmers dumped tomatoes on the roadside after prices collapsed. Now, the same sections are finally getting profitable returns. Families that once picked up a kilo without a second thought are cutting back to half. Traders said that September–October's heavy rains damaged the crops heavily across Karnataka. Even Kolar, the state's flagship tomato belt, has seen sharp dips in arrivals. With local supply thinning, Bengaluru is banking on produce from Pune, Solapur and Hyderabad, where markets are also facing shortfalls.

A 25-kg crate that previously cost far less now sells at Rs 1,200–1,300 wholesale, touching nearly Rs 1,500 by the time it reaches retailers here. Hybrid tomatoes remain slightly cheaper, but city consumers continue to favour 'apple' tomatoes.

Restaurants feeling the squeeze

North Indian eateries are the first to feel the burn. "For gravy, tomatoes are non-negotiable," says a city restaurant owner, adding that if this continues for a week or two, revising dish prices may be inevitable. It isn't just tomatoes. Drumsticks are hovering around Rs 150 a kilo, okra is at Rs 80, ridge gourd at Rs 50–60, carrots at Rs 60–70, and even a small bunch of fenugreek leaves cost Rs 10. With temperatures rising, traders expect more upward pressure.

'Supply has dropped by nearly half'

Vendors report close to a 50 per cent drop in arrivals from major supply points. Local production is limited, and dependence on neighbouring districts and Maharashtra has only intensified the crunch. With crate prices climbing and spoilage unavoidable, the burden falls squarely on consumers — and Bengaluru kitchens are already feeling the sting. As tomatoes inch toward the Rs 100 mark yet again, the city is left hoping this red-hot rally cools off sooner rather than later.

Farmers demand fair compensation

In a significant escalation of the land acquisition conflict, thousands of farmers affected by the Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) submitted unified objections to the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) on November 26.

The objections, filed by landowners along the entire 74 km stretch, target the BDA's recent compensation package and the fundamental legality of the project. Farmers have asserted that the BDA is proceeding with an illegal land grab, and they are thus collectively rejecting the recent five-option package offered by the state government.

The farmers contend that the original PRR scheme, finalised in 2007, has legally lapsed under

Farmers submit objection to Peripheral Ring Road land acquisition

Section 27 of the BDA Act, 1976, as no awards were passed within the mandatory five-year period.

They have alleged that the BDA is illegally applying the defunct Land Acquisition Act of 1894, resulting in reduced compensation based on outdated Guideline Values (SR rates). Farmers demand that the acquisition must comply with the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (RFCTLARR) Act, 2013.

"This is not about greed, but is a fight for constitutional dignity and survival after 20 years of being land-locked by BDA notifications. We demand that the government stop weaponising this two-decade ordeal against us. Any threat to withhold legal rights or payment is unacceptable," said a representative of the farmers who submitted their objection. **— BMB**

Flower show blooms with a green message

At the launch of the flower show at Cubbon Park, Chief Secretary Dr Shalini Rajneesh called on officials to ensure that flowers used in the fruit and flower show are not dumped as waste but dried or processed into useful, reusable items. After inaugurating the 11-day exhibition organised by the Horticulture Department, she toured the displays and observed that a dedicated section has been designed for children, aimed at sparking their curiosity about nature. She said the exhibition offers a simple yet powerful message: when daily life aligns with natural, eco-friendly practices, it benefits everyone. Dr Rajneesh urged visitors to experience the vibrant floral creations, appreciate the tranquillity of Cubbon Park and, in the process, support efforts to protect and maintain the park's green charm. **— BMB**

IMD sounds yellow alert for city on Saturday

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a yellow alert for the city on Saturday. Bengaluru's showers are linked to Cyclonic Storm Ditwah, which has formed over the southwest Bay of Bengal near the Sri Lanka coast after intensifying from a deep depression. The system is moving north-northwest and is expected to track toward the waters off north Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and south Andhra Pradesh by November 30, influencing weather across the region.

While Friday is expected to remain largely dry for the city, conditions will shift by Saturday as heavy rain or thundershowers are likely over Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagara, Kolar, Chikkaballapura and Chamarajanagar districts. Moderate showers are also expected across Ballari, Tumakuru, Mysuru, Mandya, Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru and surrounding regions through the weekend.

The wet spell is forecast to continue into early next week, with light to moderate rain on November 30 and scattered rainfall on December 1–3 across parts of South Interior Karnataka, though Bengaluru itself may see variability in intensity. Coastal districts such as Dakshina Kannada and Udupi are also poised for intermittent showers. Despite the incoming systems, temperatures in Bengaluru are expected to stay steady, with the city recording around 27°C during the day and 17°C at night under generally cloudy skies accompanied by early morning mist, said Dr N Puviarasan, Scientist 'F' and Head of the Meteorological Centre.

Fog disrupts operations at Bengaluru Airport

Flight operations at Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (BLR Airport) were significantly affected on Thursday morning as dense fog reduced visibility and delayed at least 41 flights since 5.30 am.

While the city witnessed light rainfall in the morning, the IMD did not issue any severe weather warnings. However, persistent fog and low clouds created challenging conditions for aircraft movement, leading to disruptions through the early hours.

According to IMD reports, the sky had remained partly cloudy on Wednesday, but Thursday's dense fog worsened visibility around the airport precincts. **— BMB**

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Leachate havoc turns lake into death trap

Citizens alarmed as leachate from nearby landfill pollutes 100-acre lake, threatening wildlife and raising health concerns for locals

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of Doddagubbi were delighted a few years ago when the then Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) carried out rejuvenation works on the lake. Spanning 100 acres, the lake has long been a favourite spot for residents to take morning and evening walks and is home to numerous birds, including migratory species. However, concerns are now growing over the deaths of birds and fish caused by water pollution.

Residents complain that the authorities spent crores of rupees on rejuvenating the lake but did nothing to prevent leachate from entering through a storm-water drain. They said leachate flows from the landfill near Bilekahalli into Kannur Lake, then Chikkagubbi Lake, and finally Doddagubbi Lake.

(Above): Leachate entering into Doddagubbi Lake through a storm water drain; (Right): A portion of Doddagubbi Lake polluted with leachate

"We are shocked to see fish and birds dying due to water pollution. The water in the lake has become dark. We are worried about our health," said a resident who wished to remain anonymous.

Expressing concern about water pollution, Ravi Shah, a resident, said that fishermen catch around 400 sick fish. "If birds are dying after eating these sick fish, there is no guarantee that humans remain healthy after consuming fish from this lake," he added.

Demanding that the authorities ensure the lake is clean, Albert R, a founding member of the Cooke Town Residents Association and advisor of Bengaluru Eshanya Mahavedike, who frequently visits the lake, said Bengaluru was once known for more than 100 water bodies, but now their number has fallen to around 20. "Water pollution has become a major issue at Doddagubbi Lake. Leachate flowing into the lake not only pollutes the lake water but also the groundwater. It may not be safe for residents to drink borewell water. I appeal to the authorities to take measures to prevent leachate entering the lake," said Albert.

Meanwhile, Anand Babu, Secretary of Yellamma Devi Meenugarara Mahila Sahakara Sangha Niyamita, stated that he wrote to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, the Chief Commissioner of BBMP, the Chief Engineer of BWSSB, and the Chief Engineer (Lakes Department), Mahadevapura Zone, on December 9, 2024, requesting action to stop leachate entering the lake, but nothing has been done so far. "We have fishing rights in Doddagubbi Lake. Many fish died due to water pollution. We have incurred huge losses as a result," said Anand Babu.

Ramesh Gowda, a member of Chikkagubbi Gram Panchayat, said the leachate has become a nuisance and a health hazard. "Chikkagubbi Lake is completely polluted. Now it is Doddagubbi Lake's turn. I urge the authorities to take steps to preserve water bodies," he said.

Doddagubbi Panchayat Development Officer Rohith P added that leachate flowing into Doddagubbi Lake from Kannur Lake through the storm-water drain is the main cause of the lake's pollution. "I have already informed the Kannur Panchayat Development Officer about the leachate entering the storm-water drain and ultimately Doddagubbi Lake. I hope measures will be taken to stop this flow," he said.

IN THE COURT OF THE SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC & MACT AT CHIKKANAYKANHALLI

MVC NO. 591/2025

Petitioner: Susheelamma W/o Rangaswamy, Aged about 58 years, R/o Kadenahalli village, Kasba Hobli, C.N.Halli Taluk, Tumkur District.

V/S

Respondents: Ragunath and another

Respondent No.1: Raghunath, M.V. S/O Venugopal Major, R/o room No-24. Gayathri Thopavana 8th phase. J.P.Nagar. Bangalore-560078. Owner of the BAJAJ Platina Bike bearing no KA-51-K-8396.

NOTICE

That the petitioner has filed this claim petition, claiming compensation for the injuries sustained in a traffic assident you and another respondent on the file of Hon'ble Civil Judge Senior division and Addl. MACT. Chikkanayakanahally. Inspite of several stepstakenfor issue of notice. The notice was not served on you. Hence this paper publication.

Through this publication you the respondent No.1 is hereby notified that the above case is posted for your appearance on 12.12.2025. Therefore after taking this notice you should appear before this Hon'ble tribunal in person or through advocate,otherwise the case will be decided in your absence by placing exparte.

Given under my hand & seal of this Court on 21.11.2025.

By Order of the Court
Sd/- Sheristedar (Admn)
CivilJudge (Sn. Dvn.) and MACT
Chikkanayakanahally

Advocate for Petitioner
S.Dilip
Chikanayakanahally

Puttenahalli bird haven sewer line drags on

The 600-metre sewer line being constructed by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) within the Yelahanka-Puttenahalli Bird Conservation Reserve is nearing completion.

However, the work involving the laying of 12.6 kilometres of lateral sewer line in the lake's catchment area will require another five months to finish, the water board has stated.

"Under the World Bank project for laying lateral networks, the work order has been issued, and the contractor has accordingly mobilised the survey team. The team has surveyed the Puttenahalli catchment area, and the design of the network is in progress. It will be completed within four to five months, and the entry of sewage from the BWSSB's jurisdiction can be prevented," BWSSB clarified in a status report filed with the National Green Tribunal.

Notably, in June 2024, the NGT ordered BWSSB and the Greater Bengaluru Authority to stop digging around the lake to lay a pipeline to prevent sewage entry. The NGT halted the work after the Yelahanka-Puttenahalli Lake and Bird Conservation Trust raised concerns about its impact on the water body. Following this order, all activities, including excavation and pipe installation, were suspended.

However, in May this year, the southern zone of the Tribunal permitted both agencies to construct a 600-metre sewer line within the reserve area, citing the urgency of ensuring that sewage is not released into the lake during the upcoming monsoon.

These interventions followed an incident last May in which a storm-water drain in the area discharged thousands of litres of sewage into the lake from nearby residential areas. Since then, the water body has suffered significant damage.

A water quality analysis of the lake conducted by a resident in December 2024 revealed that the conservation reserve is heavily polluted. While total coliform levels in the reserve had risen by more than 200%, faecal coliform values were found to be extraordinarily high.

The Yelahanka-Puttenahalli Bird Conservation Reserve was declared a bird reserve in 2015 under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 to safeguard its biodiversity. Since then, the Karnataka Forest Department has invested over Rs 10 crore in rejuvenation and restoration. — BMB

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Walkway hazard

Gangondanahalli

Pedestrians have no safe walkway along the accident-prone Gangondanahalli Main Road, Mysore Road, Nayandahalli Post.

Blockage fixed

Yelahanka

The open drain in front of Prestige Montecarlo, Yelahanka, has finally been covered.

Waste spot

Sadashiva Nagar

Residents report daily dumping at an old vacant site opposite to an Apartment on Sadashiva Nagar 9th Main, 7th Cross, and are urging BBMP to take action.

Low underpass turns emergency into tragedy

Height limit stops rescue vehicle from reaching critical accident scene

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of Judicial Layout face major difficulties in arranging an ambulance during medical emergencies, as the low-clearance underpass allows only lighter vehicles. On Wednesday night, both residents and police struggled to provide timely assistance to a road accident victim, eventually having to transport him by car to the main road where the ambulance was waiting.

They blamed the railway and BBMP authorities for lacking foresight while constructing the railway underpass that connects Judicial Layout to Kempegowda International Airport Road. "I rushed to the spot after hearing a screeching sound on the main road near the railway underpass. I found a two-wheeler rider seriously injured. We struggled a lot to take the victim to the ambulance in a car. The ambulance was parked on Kempegowda International Airport Road. In my opinion, the ambulance driver was unaware of the railway underpass. It is unfortunate that the accident victim succumbed to his injuries before reaching the hospital. He might have survived if the ambulance had arrived on time," said HM Venkatesh, a resident.

He said road accidents have become routine near the underpass, as it is not suitable for heavy vehicles. "One of the height barriers at the railway underpass was damaged when a heavy vehicle rammed into it. The authorities should have ensured that the railway underpass was suitable for all types of vehicles," he said.

Sharing a similar opinion, Dr Pandurao BM, a resident of Judicial Layout, blamed the then BBMP authorities for limiting the railway underpass to lighter vehicles only. "Heavy vehicles, including ambulances, enter Judicial Layout through the GKVK campus or Allalasandra. We are facing a lot of problems due to the low-barrier underpass," he said.

According to residents, the road accident victim was identified as Anand from Varthur.

Height-restricted underpass where accident victim couldn't be reached in time

Locals and police struggled to move the wounded man to the highway when the ambulance was trapped beyond the underpass built only for light vehicles, sparking outrage

Dramatic chase leads to cash van robbers

In a thriller straight out of a heist film, Bengaluru police apprehended a gang that looted ₹7.11 crore from an HDFC cash van and fled the city, only to be undone by a careless phone call and some sharp police work in disguise. After the heist made headlines, the gang split into three groups and sped past the Kolar toll, eventually regrouping near Chittoor before scattering again with the cash. One trio—Ravi, Nelson and Naveen—headed towards Hyderabad in a cab, unaware that officers had already begun tracking them relentlessly. Worried for his pregnant wife, Ravi avoided his phone and used the cab driver's instead—giving police the crucial breakthrough.

Police tracked the gang from Shadnagar; all three were caught near the bus stand. With nine in custody, investigators probe conflicting stories in a heist ended by a careless phone call. **-BMB**

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Inmates brew liquor inside jail

A video circulating on social media shows inmates at a central prison allegedly using rotten fruit, including grapes and apples, along with wheat and sugar, to produce liquor inside the barracks. The footage, reportedly filmed by the prisoners themselves, shows them consuming alcohol and dancing, and sending videos to associates outside the prison. Authorities have launched an investigation to determine if the fruit was fermented into alcohol and to trace how the materials were obtained. Earlier incidents of inmates, including high-profile convicts, using mobile phones inside the jail have intensified scrutiny. Police and prison officials are examining the videos and investigating the scale of illegal activities and threats within the facility. **-BMB**

BM Food & Night Life

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Surat's power looms threaten Doddaballapur's weaving legacy

Machine-made Surat sarees are rapidly overtaking Bengaluru's traditional weaves, leaving thousands of Doddaballapur artisans struggling for survival

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TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Vibrant warp threads reflect a craft under strain, with Doddaballapur weavers seeking intervention as Surat's mass-produced alternatives dominate sales

Weavers say soaring raw material prices and weak state support are crippling their craft. Surat's dominance now threatens livelihoods and Bengaluru's longstanding cultural connection to handwoven sarees

Doddaballapur, now tucked into the northern outskirts of growing Bengaluru, has long been the city's quiet textile powerhouse; the place where generations of weavers kept Karnataka's saree identity alive. But today, that heritage hub is under pressure from an unexpected heavyweight—Surat. The Gujarat textile giant has flooded the market with machine-made replicas of Doddaballapur's signature designs, and at prices local weavers simply cannot match.

For Bengaluru's retailers and shoppers, the shift is already visible. Stores that once proudly stocked Doddaballapur sarees are increasingly turning to Surat's power-loom versions, which arrive in bulk, flashier, cheaper and quick to sell. As a result, the region's artisans—who rely on skilled handwork rather than mass production—are watching their demand disappear. With raw material costs rising and profit margins thinning, thousands of weaving families who form the backbone of the city's saree supply chain are feeling the strain.

Local traders say the impact extends far beyond Bengaluru. States across South India, which traditionally depended on Doddaballapur sarees, are now leaning heavily towards Surat's rapidly expanding supply. Weavers fear that if this trend continues, the region's distinctive weave could be pushed out of the market entirely, leaving a deep cultural and economic vacuum.

In response, weavers have called for a high-level consultation on December 1, seeking urgent intervention from the government. Their demands include the creation of a long-pending yarn bank, subsidies to counter rising production costs, and stronger market protection for authentic regional weaves. Many also want enhanced educational support for weavers' children, hoping to secure both economic relief and a stronger future for the community.

BG Hemanth Raju, president of the Weavers' Rights Forum, said Surat-made versions of Doddaballapur sarees have drastically reduced market demand, prompting multiple meetings with textile officials ahead of the consultation. Another weaver noted that the combination of soaring raw material prices, the absence of a yarn bank and insufficient welfare schemes has made survival increasingly difficult.

As Surat's influence grows, the upcoming meeting is expected to underline the urgency of safeguarding Doddaballapur's weaving economy—and preserving a craft that has shaped Bengaluru's cultural wardrobe for decades.

Snake rescue question looms

The Forest Minister's recent directive that king cobra rescues be carried out only by forest department staff has triggered worry across the Malnad region. Experts note that handling a king cobra demands years of specialised, hands-on experience that most frontline personnel currently do not possess. Until the department builds such capacity, residents in forest-fringe areas may be left vulnerable when the snakes enter homes, farms, or plantations — a frequent occurrence in districts like Shivamogga and Uttara Kannada. Private rescuers, who have long assisted forest teams during high-risk operations, say recent incidents such as the Hirasihalli rescue highlight the need for skilled handlers on the ground. While many are willing to comply with any official order, they caution that excluding experienced rescuers could jeopardise public safety as well as snake conservation. -BMB

6,000 personnel for winter session

With the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha's winter session beginning on December 8, Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara has announced the deployment of 6,000 personnel—far more than last year—to ensure the proceedings run smoothly amid expected protests. To reduce pressure on the ground, he said requests from organisations seeking protest permission will be quickly assessed and their demands promptly forwarded to the concerned ministers, aiming to address grievances early and prevent escalation. -BMB

CM honours K'taka champions

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday felicitated Karnataka sportspersons Dhanalakshmi and Lakshya Rajesh, announcing a cash prize of ₹5 lakh each for their remarkable international achievements. Dhanalakshmi was part of the Indian women's kabaddi team that won gold at the Kabaddi World Cup in Dhaka, while Lakshya secured a silver medal in the singles category at the Asian Junior Badminton Championship in China. Meeting them at his Vidhana Soudha office, the Chief Minister congratulated both athletes, praised their dedication, and encouraged them to strive for greater success and bring further pride to the state and nation. -PTI

City metro goes mega double-decker

Bengaluru's upcoming Metro Phase 3 Orange Line will feature a massive 37.12 km double-decker corridor, set to be the city's longest, complete with five entry and exit ramps and nine grade-level link roads along its stretch. The line, spanning 44.65 km across two phases, includes a 28.48 km double-decker from Delmia Circle to Hebbal in Phase 1 (JP Nagar to Kempegowda International Airport via Kempapura), and an 8 km double-decker stretch from KHB Colony to Kadabagere in Phase 2. The structure will carry an elevated road below and Metro trains above, similar to the Ragigudda–Silk Board model, but on a far larger scale.

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation's DPR estimates the double-decker cost at ₹49,692 crore, with the state covering half, the Greater Bengaluru Authority 10%, and the remaining 40% through loans. The elevated road section will be tolled, although rates are yet to be fixed. Entry–exit ramps are planned at Delmia Circle, Hebbal, KHB Colony and Kadabagere, while nearly 6 km of loop roads will link major corridors: Sarakki for Kanakapura Road, Sumanahalli for Mysuru and Magadi Roads, Goraguntepalya for Tumakuru Road, and Hebbal for airport-bound traffic, strengthening the city's radial connectivity. -BMB

3-month window to escape water bill penalties

In a move to ease the Bangalore Water Supply Regulations, 1965, the State Cabinet has approved a One-Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme for customers of the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB). The scheme offers a 100% waiver on interest, penalties, and other charges for consumers who clear the entire pending principal amount of their water bills in a single payment. This was announced by the Minister for Law and Tourism.

The OTS scheme will be implemented for a limited period of three months. The Cabinet has also decided to reconcile outstanding dues across various government departments through appropriate accounting adjustments.

According to official data, as of February 2025, BWSSB customers collectively owe ₹701.71 crore in unpaid water bills. Of this, the principal amount is ₹439.03 crore, while the accrued interest amounts to ₹262.68 crore.

Officials noted that implementing the three-month OTS scheme would help BWSSB mobilise crucial financial resources by recovering the principal dues. At the same time, the public would benefit from a complete waiver of interest on these outstanding amounts. -BMB

Dip in child sex ratio rings alarm bells

Despite years of awareness drives and stringent legal safeguards, Karnataka's child sex ratio continues to show a worrying decline. According to the latest Child Rights Index released by the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, the number of girls born per 1,000 boys slipped from 958 during 2011–13 to 916 in 2020. This fall reverses the earlier improvement from 943 in 2008–10 to 958 in the following period. The report, prepared by researchers S Madeshwaran and BP Vani from the Institute for Social and Economic Change, tracks five-year trends and reveals that districts such as Mandya, Bagalkot, Bidar, Chikkaballapur, and Kalaburagi have recorded ratios dipping below 900 in certain years—well short of the United Nations SDG benchmark of 950.

Parallel to this decline is a sharp rise in crimes against children. By 2021, sexual assault accounted for 39% of all registered cases, followed by abductions (35%), child marriage (4%), cybercrimes (2%), child labour (1%), and other offences (18%). The Child Rights Commission has stressed intensified surveillance in low-ratio districts. Chairperson Shashidhar Kosambe noted that several foeticide cases have been detected in the past two years, but sustained public vigilance remains essential to protect every girl child. -BMB

Workers protest labour codes, urge state to fix minimum pay

Trade union leads demonstration, opposing expansion of contract labour, unfair wage structures, and provisions weakening workers' rights across industries

Rachana Ramesh
c-rachana.ramesh
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Union leaders highlight contract labour exploitation, urge government action urgently

IN FOCUS
Labour rights

Workers from across Karnataka gathered at Freedom Park on Thursday for a massive state-level demonstration organised by the All India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU), demanding the repeal of the four Labour Codes and the abolition of the contract labour system. The protesters also urged the State Government to notify a minimum monthly wage of Rs 42,000, arguing that rising living costs have made current wage structures unsustainable for working families.

AICCTU National Vice-President Clifton D'Rozario criticised the Union Government for enforcing the four Labour Codes—on Wages (2019), Social Security (2020), Industrial Relations (2020), and Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (2020)—abruptly on November 21 without consulting workers or trade unions. "These Codes dismantle hard-won labour rights," he said, accusing the Centre of prioritising corporate concerns while neglecting worker welfare. He warned that the Codes would lead to wage reductions, weaker social security, heightened job insecurity, and curbs on unionisation. He also pledged that AICCTU would continue its struggle until the laws were withdrawn.

D'Rozario condemned the growing dependence on contract labour, citing Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Ltd., where essential workers remain on contract despite carrying out core responsibilities. "The message being sent is that employers are superior and workers should be grateful for being allowed to work," he said, calling such attitudes unacceptable in a democratic society.

AICCTU State President PP Appanna echoed these concerns, warning that the new wage framework could slash existing minimum wages due to the introduction of a "floor wage." He estimated that current wages could fall from Rs 27,613 to Rs 19,154. He also said claims of improved social security were misleading because gig and unorganised workers would receive only "registration" without meaningful access to PF, ESI, or insurance benefits.

AICCTU State Secretary Maitreyi Krishnan said workers' rights had suffered a serious setback with the Codes coming into force. Mandatory 14-day strike notices in all sectors, she argued, directly weakened the right to strike, while provisions granting registrars unilateral powers to cancel unions further eroded labour protections.

Ahead of the rally, demonstrators burned copies of the four Labour Codes as a symbolic act of resistance. A delegation later submitted a memorandum of demands to the Assistant Labour Commissioner. Several prominent union leaders were present at the protest.

State told not to interfere in operation of jaggery factory

IN HIGH COURT

The Karnataka High Court restrained State officials from interfering with the operations of Shree Brahmananda Sagar Jaggery Industries after allegations that a sitting Cabinet Minister influenced its closure. The court stayed the November 15 shutdown order and directed the Chief Director of Sugar under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution to inspect SBSJI and Askins Biofuels Private Limited on November 28. The inspection report, due December 9, must reflect production. Justice M Nagaprasanna ruled that State officials cannot join the Union-led inspection. The State alleged brown sugar production beyond licensed jaggery activity, while the petitioner claimed the action was driven by a Minister linked to Alagawadi Bireshwara Sugars Private Limited. The court warned the State not to assert authority while the dispute remains pending. -BMB

'Change of mind' not good reason to cancel posting

The Dharwad Bench of the Karnataka High Court restored the appointment of Sunil as additional district government pleader after the State cancelled his posting within a day. Sunil was appointed to the XI Additional District and Sessions Court in Belagavi on October 28, assumed charge, and appeared in court, but a notification the next day withdrew his appointment and named DB Thakkannavar instead. Justice M Nagaprasanna noted the State offered no administrative or legal reason for the abrupt reversal. Citing an office note indicating a mere "change of mind," the court held such arbitrariness violates Article 14. Quashing the withdrawal, it reinstated Sunil, stressing constitutional discipline and reinforcing fairness in official appointments across the state. -BMB

INBRIEF

Centre okays Lakshman Singh's deputation as K-RIDE chief

The Centre has approved the deputation of Lakshman Singh of the Indian Railway Service of Engineers as Managing Director of Rail Infrastructure Development Company Karnataka. K-RIDE is handling the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project, which has progressed slowly due to the absence of a technocrat to head the organisation, sources said. Officials noted that the appointment follows years of demand for a leader with strong technical expertise, given the complexity of the project. Singh is currently Chief General Manager (Civil) at Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd and will take charge at K-RIDE on deputation, retaining his parent pay along with deputation allowance. The deputation period is three years from the date he assumes office or until further orders, whichever is earlier. His total tenure will include his earlier deputation term with BMRCL. The Railway Ministry has asked BMRCL to relieve him and confirm his release date. -BMB

State govt releases subsidies to farmers after rain-related losses

Responding to farmers' distress in need after widespread crop losses from heavy monsoon rains, the Congress-led Karnataka government on Thursday released an additional Rs 1,033.60 crore as input subsidy in a single day. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah initiated the transfer of compensation into the bank accounts of 14.24 lakh affected farmers from his home office, 'Krishna'.

Addressing a press conference, the Chief Minister said the government announced this package to support farmers whose crops were damaged during this year's monsoon floods. He said the government stands with the farming community and, to provide stronger assistance, has increased subsidy rates. Limited to a maximum of two hectares, rainfed crops will now receive Rs 8,500 to Rs 17,000 per hectare, irrigated crops Rs 17,000 to Rs 25,500 per hectare, and perennial crops Rs 22,500 to Rs 31,000 per hectare.

Under SDRF norms, Rs 1,218.03 crore has already been disbursed to the same 14.24 lakh farmers. Siddaramaiah reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensure timely support and protect farmers' livelihoods. -IANS

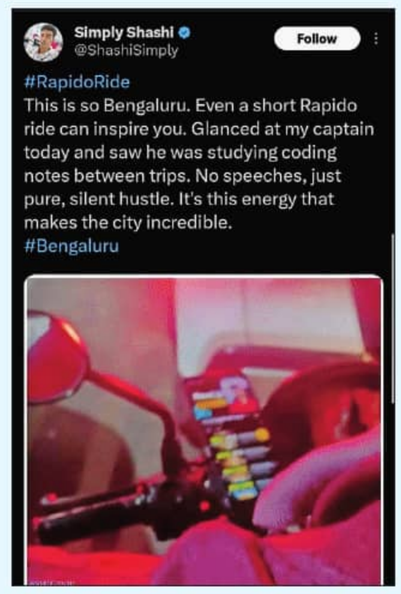
SOCIALTATTLE

THAT WENT VIRAL

A picture shared by X user @shobhitic was accompanied by the caption noting that "the pink tree season is approaching in Bengaluru." The post was widely circulated on the platform.

WHAT'S TWEETING

A user on X, @ShashiSimply, shared that even a short Rapido ride turned unexpectedly inspiring when the rider noticed the Rapido captain studying coding notes between trips, a moment the user described as a reminder of Bengaluru's quiet, relentless hustle.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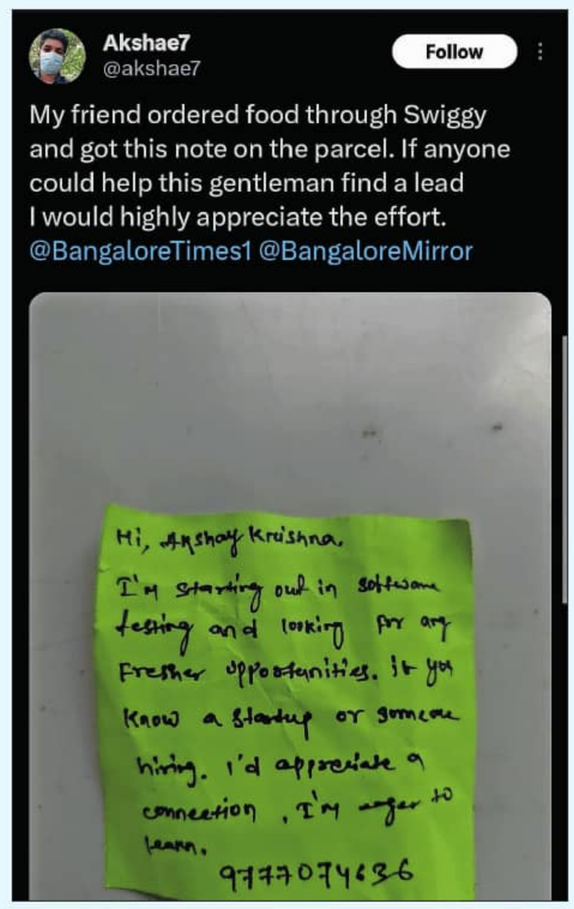
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9777074636

A user on X, @akshae7, shared that her friend received a Swiggy order with a handwritten note from the delivery executive, requesting to be informed if any startup or company was hiring. The user, who also tagged Bangalore Mirror, appealed for help in finding a lead for the delivery agent.

jobs

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tender & notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to the general public that **Smt. Priya Dhirendra Thakkar** , Aged about **60 years**, Residing at **Shriji Nivas, Walkar Road, Behind Mahila Co-operative Society, Mahal, Nagpur, Maharashtra – 440002**, intends to purchase the following immovable property situated in **Doddathoguru, Electronic City, Bangalore, Karnataka**:

Property Details: Building / Site bearing **Sy. No. 98, Plot No. 5**, measuring **1200 sq. ft.(111.4836 Sq. Mtrs)**, facing **South**. **Proposed Sellers: Smt. Bindu Devi Mahnot**, aged about **52 years**, **and others** (co-owners/concerned parties as per title documents).

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person or entity **having any claim, right, title, interest, mortgage, lien, charge, attachment, lease, easement, encumbrance, inheritance right, share, dispute, pending litigation, or objection** whatsoever in respect of the aforesaid property is hereby **required to notify the undersigned** within **15 days** from the date of publication of this notice. If **no objections** are received within the stipulated period, it shall be **conclusively presumed** that: The property is **free from all encumbrances, disputes, claims, or litigations**, The proposed purchaser shall proceed with the **sale transaction**, and **No claims or objections** will be entertained thereafter.

Issued By:
NIRAV THAKKAR
On behalf of
Smt. Priya Dhirendra Thakkar
Date: 28-11-2025
Place: **Bangalore,**
MOB: 9765545907.

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, HAMIDA TAIYEBALI alias TASNEEM TOTANAWALA, W/o. Husain, residing at No. 7/9, Fizza Manzil, 18th Main, 21st Corss, J.P Nagar 5th Phase, Bengaluru-560078, have changed my name to TASNEEM BAHRAINWALA after my marriage, The correct date of birth is 29/01/1970 as per the birth certificate, vide affidavit dated 27.11.2025, sworn before notary K.S Chandrashekar, Bangalore.

I, Santosh S/O, Raghuvappa S R R/o No 1279 3rd Main Kaval Byrasandra Amc Layout Rt Nagar, Bengaluru 560032 have changed my name to Santosh R for all purposes.

I, SHAZAD & SHAHATAJ, R/a. # Millathnagar Kolar -563101. I, have Changed my name to SHA TAJ, Vide affidavit, dated 25/11/2025 Sworn before Notary R Basavaraja Bangalore

I, Ankith Anand Bergal R/o 12, 29th cross, Mysuru bank, Kilari road, Chickpet po, Bengaluru 560053 have changed my name to Ankit Anand Bergal. I shall be called by this name for all purposes

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Long process leaves applicants demoralised

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

officer informed me that the visa was refused, not rejected, meaning I could reapply. Still, the outcome left me discouraged, especially after spending more than a year waiting for the appointment. I've been wanting to reapply, but after this experience, I haven't had the chance and honestly, I feel demotivated," he said.

Travel consultants say Khan's story is not unusual. Pooja Naidu, who runs a travel assistance firm, said the problem is simply that of overwhelming demand. "There is a huge volume of applications, but the embassy has a limited number of appointment slots. These slots open only at intervals. If you apply in the normal process today, your appointment could be in November 2026," she said. According to her, applicants must secure whatever slot is available and then wait sometimes for years before appearing for their interview.

A Bengaluru citizen, whose parents applied for a visitor visa in March last year to attend her graduation ceremony in May 2024, said the experience has been disappointing. "Their B2 visa was rejected, and now they are trying again but are unable to find any appointment slots. Because they were rejected once, their morale is really low. We don't know how long this will take," she said.

Another citizen said on the condition of anonymity, "I want to visit my relatives in the USA and have been trying to book slots but there is no availability for three months and I have been constantly trying for a US visa appointment for Hyderabad."

But not every experience is discouraging. A product manager from Bengaluru, who recently secured a B2 visa, said preparation made all the difference. "I was able to get the appointment easily and even cleared the interview without any issues. It's about having the right documents and being confident," he said. He added that the consulate staff were supportive. "I was travelling for medical reasons for my child, to visit a doctor in the US. The consulate officers were very friendly, and the interview went smoothly. My visa was granted."

Your Connect

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Manjunatha N V S/o N Chikkavenkatareddy, R/o No 85 Nandiganahalli Village, Chintamani, Chikkaballapura 563125 Have Changed My Name To Manjunath N V For All Purposes.

I, MUKTIHAR, R/a# 7, Lal Masjid Street, Shivajinagar Bengaluru-51. I, have Changed my name to MUKTHAR AHMED, Vide affidavit, dated 26/11/2025 Sworn before Notary R Basavaraja Bangalore

I, Chaitra havaldar Wo Sachin Jahagirdar R/o Siri Lifestyle Appt 208, 2nd Floor Arehalli 5th Main Road Uttarahalli Arch B'lore-560061 have changed my name to Chaitra Sachin Jahagirdar

I, GOWTHAMIBAI S. R/at. Arka Archids 20, 3rd Cross, 3 Main, Aditi Public School, AGS Layout, Bengaluru -560061. Have changed to GOUTHAMI JADAV S. vide Afdt Dtd 26.11.2025 Sworn before Notary: Devaraja E.

I NAFEESA w/o Saifuddin R/@ No 88 Vinayakanagar Arvind Layout J P Nagar 5th Phase Bangalore 560078 had changed my name to NAFISA S SONI for all purposes.

I Kalyani Kutty Vasudevan Nair W/O, C.kesavan Unni R/o N0-304,3rd Floor,saicharitha Apts,nandana Vanam Layout,vidyaranyapura,bengaluru-560097 have changed my name to Kalyani Kutty.

I, Raghunath S/O, Sampangiramaiah R/o No 1279 3rd Main Kaval Byrasandra Amc Layout Rt Nagar, Bengaluru 560032 have changed my name to Raghuvappa S R for all purposes

I, Veena Bai K R/o No.101, Tanishka Nilaya, Nisarga layout, 2nd stage, 10th cross, Abbigere, Bengaluru 560090 have changed my name to Veena K (Veena Krishnoji Rao) I shall be called by this name for all purposes

I, PAUL KIRUBAHARAN S/o Royappa R/at No. 1, 3rd Floor, IMC Annex, Indiranagar Methodist Church- 560008 have changed my name to PAUL KIRUBAHARAN ROYAPPA vide affidavit dated: 26/11/2025 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore

I YOUSF KHAN s/o Mahaboob Khan.K R/@ No 10 11th C Cross Padarayanapura Bangalore 560026 had changed my name to YOUSUF KHAN for all purposes.

I, Kamlesh Kumar Gautham Chand Solanki S/o Gautham Chand Solanki ,No 303,3rd Floor Mahakalp Meadows 13/1 PMK Rd,Shankarpuram B'lore-560004 have changed my name to Kamlesh Kumar Solanki

I, MADHUSUDAN DIBBUR SIDDAIAH R/o. No. 294, 11th Main, 5th Cross, Behind NTI Ground, NTI Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru 97 have changed my name to MADHUSUDHAN DIBBUR SIDDAIAH vide Affidavit dt. 25.11.2025. sworn before notary Mr. C Srinivas Bengaluru.

I Prakasha Basavarajappa Melehanahalli S/O, Basavarajappa M T R/o N0-410/42,2nd Cross,punith Rajkumar Road, Gantiganahalli,yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064 have changed my name to Prakash Melehanahalli Basavarajappa.

I, SAYEDA HUSNA, R/a.# 21, Behind Airtel Tower, Medimallasandra Bengaluru-67 I, have Changed my name to SYEDA HUSAN, Vide affidavit, dated 25/11/2025 Sworn before Notary R Basavaraja Bangalore

I, HARUN RASHEED (Old Name) resident of No. 404, 1st Main, 6th Cross, Gangondanahalli, Bengaluru-560039 have changed my name to HAROON RASHEED (New Name) Vide affidavit dated: 24/11/2025 Before Notary Deepa.M Bangalore.

I SAIFUDDIN KURBAN HUSSAIN SONI S/o Nomanlahai Kamruddin Chas Mawala R/@ No 88 Vinayakanagar Arvind Layout J P Nagar 5th Phase Bangalore 560078 had changed my name to SAIFUDDIN SONI for all purposes.

I, Swapnil Kumar Shanu, R/o Flat No KOR213, Tower III, RBI Officers Quarters, National Games Housing Complex, Kapila Tower, Koramangala, Bengaluru - 560047, have changed my name to Swapnil Shanu Bharga

I, DIAS WAYLON FRANCIS S/o Francis Gabriel Dias, R/@ No.K-0909, Krypton Brigade EL Dorado, Aerospace Park, Huvinayakanahalli, Bengaluru -562149 changed my name to WAYLON D for all purposes.

LOST & FOUND

Document Lost

I, Pavithra.B.K W/o K.C.Jayaprakash, residing at No.42, Chowdeshwari Nilaya, Kada Agrahara Village, Sarjapur Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District. The documents of the sale deed (No. ABL-1-04988-2013-14) of the property in Survey No. 516 have been lost. In this regard, i have filed a complaint (Reference No.882/2025) to Sarjapur Police Station on 26.11.2025. If anyone finds the said documents, please inform the above address or the police station. 8073225448

GENERAL

I Deepak Kumar K S/O Kishore Kumar B K, born in Bengaluru (13/02/1993). Residing at # 85, Sri Balaji Layout, Nageshwara Naganahalli, Bengaluru - 77 Intends to apply for Indian citizenship & passport.

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Bottoms up

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

60.91, in Shivagange, WQI was 23.96, in Gangenapura, it was 17.88, in Aralalu, it was 31.59, and in Bairasandra, WQI was calculated at 73.95.

However, water quality index projection for 2030 shows that the water quality index is expected to reach 92.4 in Doddaballapura, 87.8 in Mahadevapura, 105.3 in Shivagange 1, 77.6 in Gangenapura, 122.1 in Aralalu, and 98.7 in Bairasandra.

"Our projection indicates that there is an 83 % probability that three out of the six sites will reach 'unfit for drinking' classification by 2030, which would render groundwater unsuitable for human consumption without extensive treatment. This projection was done based on the WQI of groundwater between 2015 and 2024 at the six locations," said Dimple Bahri, associate professor, Jain-Deemed-to-be University.

Researchers calculated WQI based on six parameters that included pH, electrical conductivity, hardness, chloride, fluoride, and nitrate. A WQI of above 100 falls under grade 'E' and is considered 'unfit for drinking.'

Researchers say the Bengaluru Rural and Ramanagara districts are experiencing significant growth and development. While the districts have retained their rural character to some extent, they are also facing the challenges associated with urbanisation and industrialisation.

This finding is particularly concerning given the region's heavy reliance on groundwater resources for domestic, agricultural, and industrial applications.

The study also noted that all six stations feature a mix of land uses, reflecting the changes in underground water quality levels due to several factors associated with the probable land use in the areas, including urbanisation and industrialisation: Sewage and industrial effluents-untreated or inadequately treated sewage and industrial effluents are major contributors to water pollution.

The assessment reveals critical water quality deterioration patterns that pose significant risks to public health and environmental sustainability.

"Without immediate and sustained intervention, the projected trajectory toward widespread groundwater unsuitability threatens the water security of over 2.5 million residents across the study region, underscoring the critical importance of proactive water resource management in supporting sustainable regional development while protecting public health and environmental integrity," said Bahri.

Security tightened for PM Modi's Udupi visit

Security has been stepped up in the temple town of Udupi in Karnataka ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit and scheduled roadshow.

Prime Minister Modi will visit Udupi on Friday, and security has been strengthened across the city.

Preparations have been completed, and the entire city has taken on a saffron hue with arrangements underway to welcome the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Modi will visit the historic Sri Krishna Math. Before visiting the Math, he will hold a roadshow from Bannanje to Kalsanka for about 20 minutes. Barricades have been installed along the roadside for the public to stand and watch.

Buntings and saffron flags have been placed along the roadshow route. The authorities are expecting a large turnout for the event.

To prevent any untoward incident, more than 3,000 police personnel have been deployed in and around Udupi city. Two layers of barricades have been erected - one reserved for police security and the other for the public.

This will be Prime Minister Modi's first visit to the Sri Krishna Math after assuming office.

The Udupi city administration, police, and district authorities are completing the final round of preparations.

Ten Superintendents of Police (SP's), 27 Deputy Superintendents of Police (DySPs), 49 Police Inspectors, 127 Sub-Inspectors, 232 ASIs, 1,608 constables, 39 women staff, six platoons of the Karnataka State Reserve Police (KSRP), and six Quick Response Teams (QRT) will be deployed across the coastal city.

—IANS

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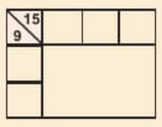
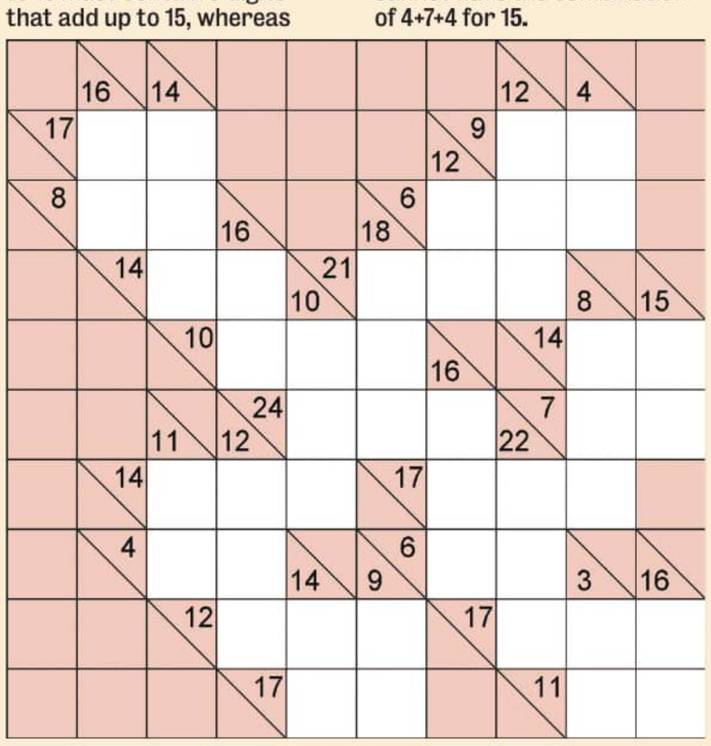
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

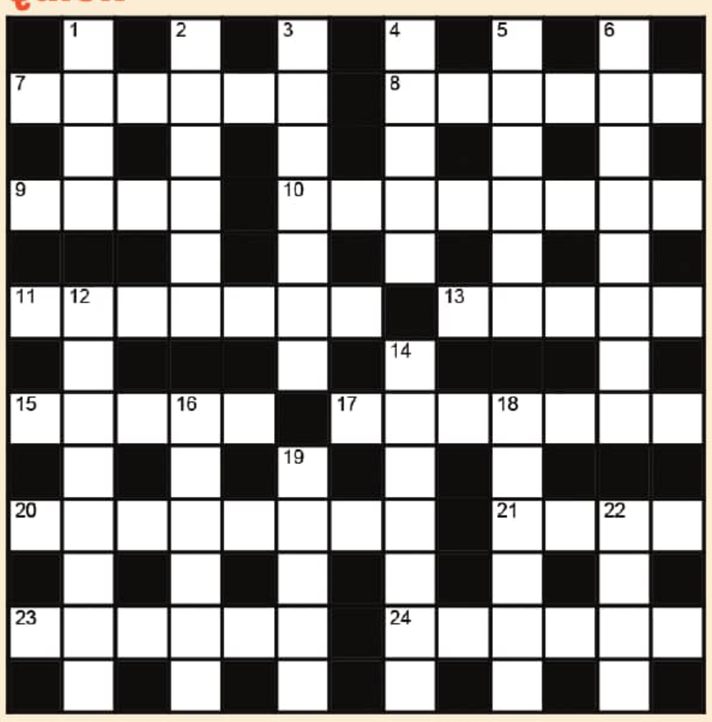
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Givers (6)
8 Trajectory (6)
9 Evergreen coniferous trees (4)
10 One who is being tested (8)
11 Lay down the law (7)
13 9/11 mastermind (5)
15 Frugal or lean (5)
17 Snake (7)
20 Keeping goods for sale etc. (8)
21 Grape brandy (4)
23 Harm or cause bodily harm (6)
24 St – on Riviera (6)

DOWN

1 Chicken curry native to Karnataka (4)
2 County in Southern England (6)
3 Viewpoints or appearances (7)
4 Entrails, etc (5)
5 Fingers and toes (6)
6 ___ ___ in a boat : Jerome K. Jerome's famous novel? (5,3)
12 Helpless (8)
14 Popular hard drive brand (7)
16 Melee; fracas (6)
18 Cheerleader's prop (6)
19 One imprisoned until death (5)
22 Stench (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: B EQUALS D

QKAT, AJF NTJNQT, ETCKZM WJ HFGREQT JZ WLT TBCTM; WLTV BJZW FTPQKXT KW

Linemaro

What is your favourite colour? (colour) Mine too! Seems like we are soulmates

Mindchow

Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future

Joke of the day

I try to take it one day at a time, but sometimes several days attack me at once

Loop

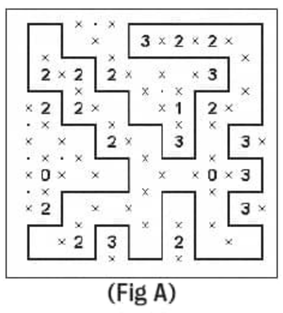
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

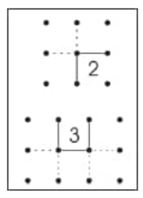
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

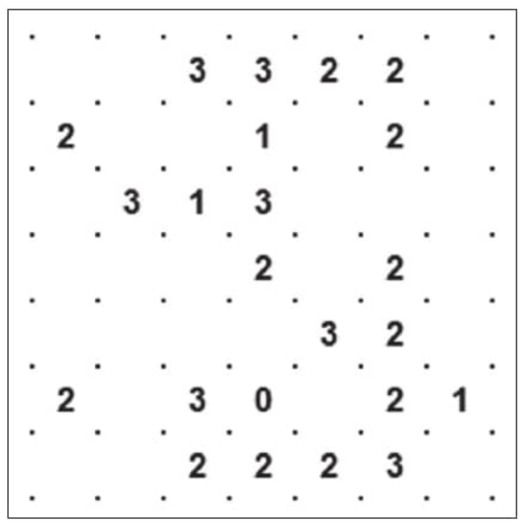
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



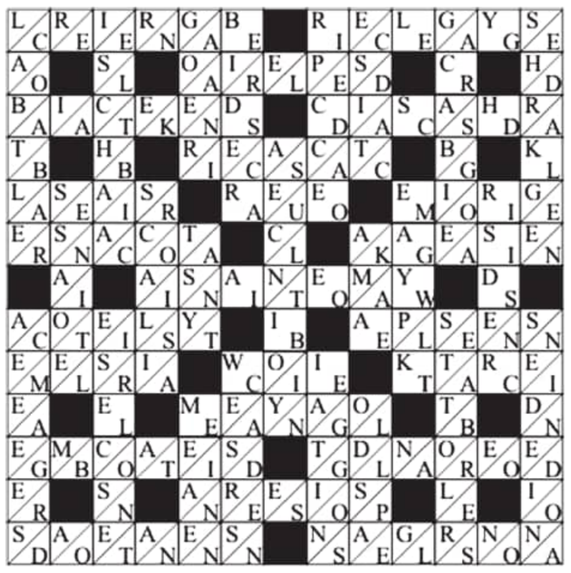
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



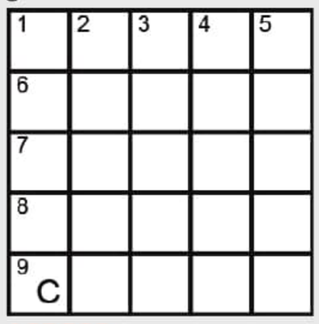
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Lamps; 6 Tiara;
7 Sen me; 8 It inn;
9 Tacos

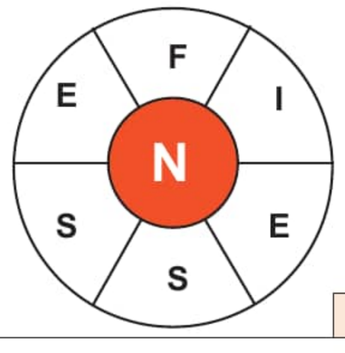
DOWN

1 In Cap; 2 Tones;
3 An are; 4 It mil;
5 Mt Ass

Mensapuzzle

Complete the last star.

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; **04** Good; **05** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	3			2	6		5	
2								9
7					3	2	1	
				8	2		3	
		1				9		
	4		6	9				
	7	4	3					8
1								4
	8		4	6			9	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 1

3 4 5 5

Medium = 6

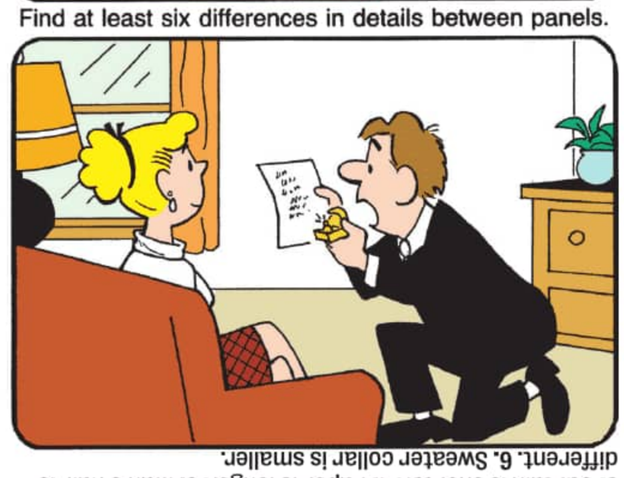
3 5 6 8

Hard = 18

2 3 3 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



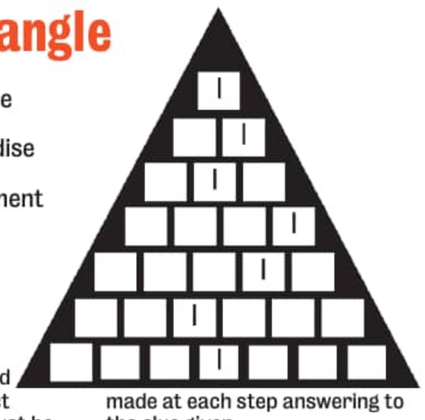
Differences: 1. Foot is moved. 2. Knob is added to drawer. 3. Curtain is shorter. 4. Paper is longer. 5. Man's hair is different. 6. Sweater collar is smaller.

Riddler

What do the following words have in common? Assess, Banana, Dresser, Grammar, Potato, Revive, Uneven & Voodoo

Alpha triangle

1 Third vowel
2 51 in ancient Rome
3 Feel bad
4 South Seas paradise
5 Off the cuff (2-3)
6 Released on payment of security
7 Can be heard

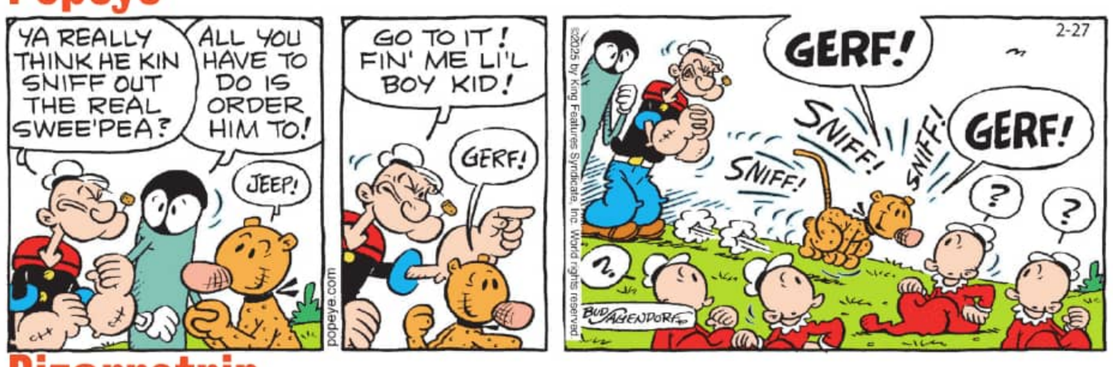


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

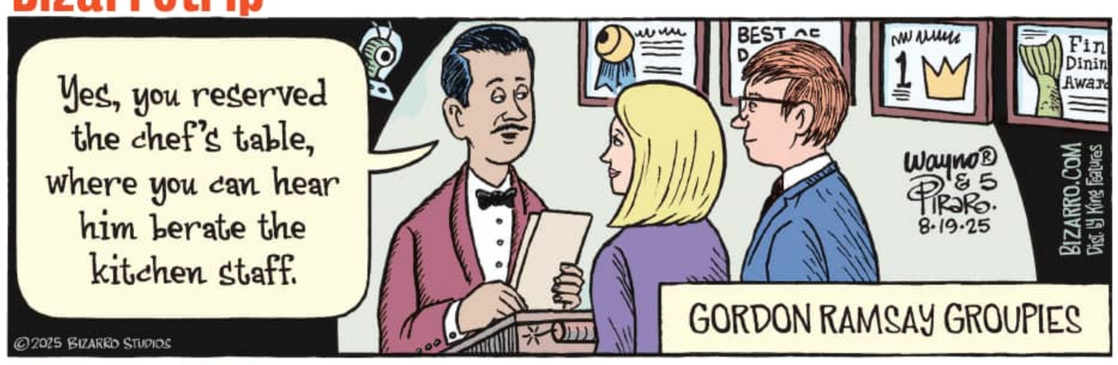
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip


Yes, you reserved the chef's table, where you can hear him berate the kitchen staff.
GORDON RAMSAY GROUPIES
Wayno & Piraro 8.19.25
BIZARRO.COM
©2025 BIZARRO STUDIOS

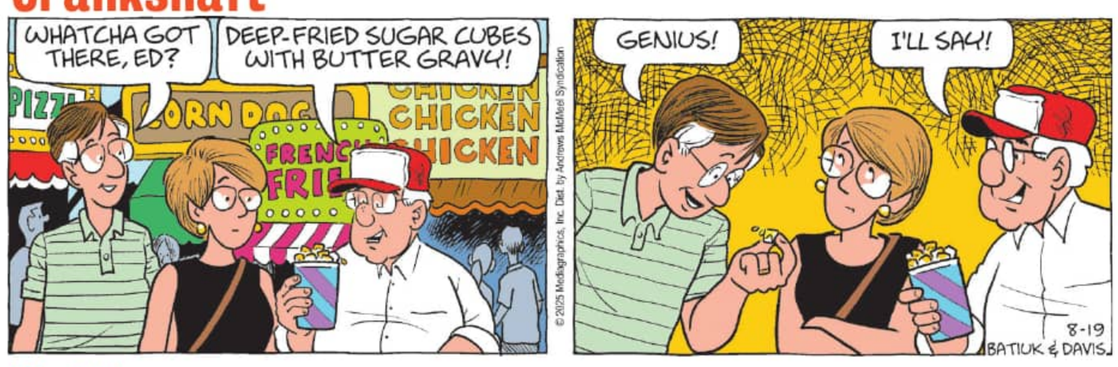
Diamond Lil

HEY, SURLI, HOW CAN I GET A WOMAN TO TUMBLE FOR ME?
OK, HERE'S WHAT I FOUND...
ENROLL HER IN A GYMNASTICS ACADEMY
©2025 creators.com 8/19
www.creators.com
Brettell

Hart of the city

THUS WITH A KISS... I DIE.
WOW. I KISSED YOU BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT THE SCRIPT TOLD ME TO DO.
BUT I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH YOU. BE MY GIRLFRIEND, HEART?
HEART?
HEART?
EXIT
HEART!! GET TO YOUR MARK, PLEASE!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
9/19

Crankshaft



Mutts

EARL, VACATIONS ARE FUN, BUT I MISS SHLEEPING IN MY OWN BED!
MOOCH! MILLIE BROUGHT YOUR BED!!!
YESH
BUT WHO HAS TIME TO SHLEEP IN IT!?!
8·19

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Your finances see a very positive upswing as longstanding old debts are successfully cleared. Your career takes a confident, powerful leap forward; claim your truly deserved promotion now. Love is direct and passionate; express your needs and desires clearly. Your family celebrates you; their pride is your greatest annual reward.

Aries Mar 21–Apr 20

Pause and breathe. Let go of worries and focus on the beauty around you. Positive energy surrounds you today; stay open-minded and embrace refreshing, uplifting perspectives with gratitude.

Taurus Apr 21–May 20

You can't solve everything; set realistic, achievable goals. Simplify your day, focus on what matters, and inner peace will follow. Balance brings clarity, helping you find calm and fulfilment.

Gemini May 21–Jun 21

Channel energy into work today. The stars favour career success and recognition. Stay dedicated, seize opportunities, and you might receive that promotion or sign to take a bold leap.

Cancer Jun 22–July 23

Step back from leading; offer gentle support instead. Your intuition and insight can help others today. Share advice with empathy, uplifting both yourself and those you care about deeply.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Speak from the heart. It's time to express emotions you've been holding back. Opening up strengthens bonds, inviting support, clarity, and comfort from loved ones who truly understand you.

Virgo Aug 24–Sep 23

Help those who appreciate your kindness. Avoid draining energies and focus on genuine friendships. Balance generosity with self-care; you deserve rest and nurturing as much as anyone else.

Libra Sep 24–Oct 22

Ease your workload. Take time to enjoy life's pleasures, treat yourself, relax, and rejuvenate. A calm mind boosts motivation, bringing balance and renewed focus for the week ahead.

Scorpio Oct 23–Nov 22

Reach out; the stars favour communication and connection. Whether it's a friend or family member, initiating that conversation brings warmth, healing, and positive momentum in relationships today.

Sagittarius Nov 23–Dec 22

Trust your instincts. Your beliefs guide you toward clarity and purpose. Stay optimistic; good news or validation may arrive soon, aligning perfectly with what your heart already knows.

Capricorn Dec 23–Jan 20

Set aside hesitation. Step boldly into your strength and express yourself fearlessly. Trying something new unlocks growth, confidence, and opportunities you never imagined possible; trust your courage today.

Aquarius Jan 21–Feb 19

Confidence fuels your day. Take initiative toward your goals, especially business or creative pursuits. The stars support risktaking; move forward decisively and embrace success that follows your boldness.

Pisces Feb 20–Mar 20

Watch spending habits. Avoid impulsive purchases and focus on budgeting wisely. Stay mindful of your resources; financial awareness today ensures stability, peace, and balance in the days ahead.

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Rhea, Bengalurfu

Anshi, Bengaluru

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

(16^7)^1/2-(16^5)^1/2] / [(9^7)^1/2-(9^5)^1/2] =
(16^1/2(7^1/2 - 5^1/2) / 9^1/2(7^1/2 - 5^1/2) =
(16/9)^1/2 = 4/3

BULL'S fine, FINESSE,
EYE seen, sense, sine

RIDDLER

If you take the first letter and move it to the rear of the word, you get the same word when read backwards.

FAST FIVE

P	S	A	L	M
A	T	R	I	A
N	E	E	M	S
I	N	N	I	T
C	O	A	T	S

STRIKE OUT

C	R	I	N	G	E		R	E	L	A	Y	S		
O	S		O	I	L	E	D		R		H			
B	A	C	K	E	D		C	I	C	A	D	A		
B		H		R	E	A	C	T		B		K		
L	E	I	S		R	U	E		E	I	R	E		
E	N	A	C	T		C		A	G	A	I	N		
A		A	N	A	T	O	M	Y		D				
A	T	I	L	T		I		A	P	S	E	S		
M	E	S	A		W	O	E		T	A	R	E		
E		L		M	A	N	G	O		B		N		
R		S		A	E	S	O	P		E		I		
E	M	O	T	E	D		G	L	A	R	E	D		
S	A	T	A	N	S		N	E	L	S	O	N		

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE

K. In each star, the letters run clockwise in alphabetical order, in steps of 3 for the left hand star, 4 for the centre and 2 for the right hand star.

QUOTE UNCODE

Life, for people, begins to crumble on the edges; they dont realize it

SUDOKU

5	8	2	4	6	7	1	9	3
1	9	3	2	5	8	6	7	4
6	7	4	3	1	9	5	2	8
3	4	5	6	9	1	7	8	2
8	2	1	7	3	4	9	6	5
9	6	7	5	8	2	4	3	1
7	5	8	9	4	3	2	1	6
2	1	6	8	7	5	3	4	9
4	3	9	1	2	6	8	5	7

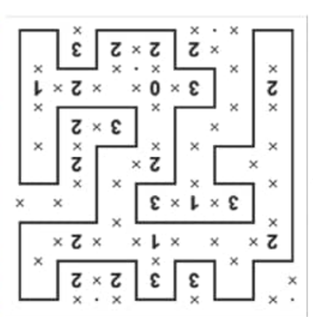
ALPHA TRIANGLE

Ad-lib, Balled, I, Ll, All, Ball, Audible.

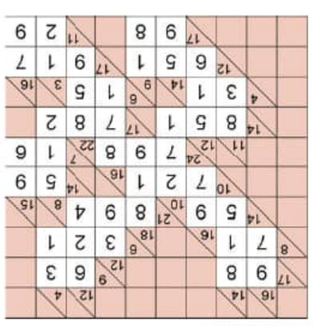
GO FIGURE

Easy
4 + 5-3-5 = 1
Medium
5 + 3 + 6-8 = 6
Hard
3 x 4 \ 2 x 3 = 18

LOOP



KAKURO



Volume No 18, Issue No 234 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by Lokesh K.V. at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore–560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru–560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon–responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

 # 'Indescribable loss'
Hema Malini shares pictures in first post since with Dharmendra's death and said he was "everything" to her— a partner, guide and friend

'Your lipstick not to blame'

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, known for her outspoken nature on women's issues, recently took a firm stand against victim-blaming in street harassment. Speaking out, she emphasised that women should never be blamed for the harassment they face — regardless of their attire, make-up or personal choices.

In a video shared online as part of a safety campaign, she asked the central question: "Street harassment — how do you deal with it? Avoid eye contact?" Then she answered — "No." She urged victims and bystanders both to confront the problem directly: "Look the problem directly in the eyes, hold your head high."

Rai's bold message: "My body, my worth. Never compromise your worth. Do not doubt yourself. Stand up for your worth. Don't blame your dress or your lipstick. Street harassment is never your fault."

The video is part of a campaign run by L'Oréal Paris. Rai, their long-time ambassador, has lent her voice to highlight that safety and dignity cannot be conditioned on how someone dresses or looks.

Her remarks come at a time when debates around consent, street harassment, and gender-based violence remain urgent across society. Many applauded her courage to speak out. On social media, supporters wrote: "Street harassment is so real and seldom discussed. Love this." Another comment read: "A powerful reminder — important message for girls everywhere."

By challenging victim-blaming culture and urging respect, Aishwarya Rao Bachchan's message stands as a strong call for accountability — not only from individuals, but from society at large. **—ETimes**

Where innocence meets stark reality

Paatashala

2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Heddur Manjunath Shetty
- **ACTORS** Balaji Manohar, Kiran Nayak, Natana Prashanth, Samrudhi Kumar, Master Ayush
- **Duration** 147 minutes
- **Certification** U/A

Director Heddur Manjunath Shetty has tried to convey a message on the importance of education and environment with this movie. He has also included many issues such as puppy love among primary school boys and girls, hunting of wild animals, alcoholism among villagers in the Malnad region, and corruption among forest officials. The director, apart from handling the megaphone, has played one of the characters in the movie. However, showcasing some of the teachers as corrupt and inefficient is not in good taste. For example, the headmaster looks like a joker and is seen accepting one or the other gift from parents who want to get admission for their children into the school. One teacher is portrayed as a stammerer and another as a gambler, which affects the film's tone.

The movie, set against the backdrop of the 1980s, is said to be based on real incidents. It emphasises the bond between students and teachers. The narrative focuses on workaholic villagers who want to secure admission for their children into a government school by exerting influence and offering various types of gifts. At this point, the director introduces Sanjeeva, who wants to hunt a wild boar in the forest. The forest officer wants to take him into custody, and viewers must watch the movie to know whether the officer succeeds in sending Sanjeeva to prison.

Around forty children acted in the movie, and among them, Baby Manya and Master Ayush performed well. Balaji Manohar, who played the forest officer, appears in a different getup. Kiran Nayak and Natana Prashanth provide good support. Cinematographer Jeevan Gowda has done a commendable job behind the camera, capturing the greenery of the Malnad region beautifully. Music director Vikash Vasishta has provided lilting music that complements the film.

Had the director reduced the movie's runtime by fifteen to twenty minutes, the movie would have been a better entertainer. It is worth a watch for family audiences.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

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